

MACHRIHANISH SEABIRD OBSERVATORY

Warden - **David Millward** Assistant Wardens - **Jo Goudie, Victoria Russell**

It is my sad duty to let you all know of the death of **Eddie Maguire**, warden of the Machrihanish Seabird Observatory, who died this month after a short illness.

He will be greatly missed as his knowledge of seabirds and the area were second to none.

Eddie worked hard to create the observatory and make it what it is, a window on the birds that visit or make this area their home. We hope it becomes his legacy for the area and continues to be a place for everyone to enjoy the birds and wildlife that can be seen here.



July Report 2021

July has been an interesting month with regards to weather. It has been very hot and dry with very little wind. It is only to the end of the month that we have had a change with cooler conditions and light rain.

As wardens we have been checking birdlife around the observatory and also around our home on the Machrihanish Airbase. We will be keeping you up to date on the wildlife in both places and also hope to let you know of birds in the Kintyre area.

We are interested, not just in birds, but also insects, flora and other wildlife so we will include information on these too.

Also, as I don't know who Eddie sent his report to or who kept him up to date with sightings I would appreciate it if you could let me know who you are. Please email me on jomitzi@yahoo.co.uk with your name and I will add you to my list.

As for now, we will be manning the observatory as often as we can but if you would like to visit on a specific date let me know and we will ensure there is a warden to open up for you.

Best regards

Jo Goudie

For Updates / Enquiries...

Contact the Observatory

Mobile - 07737 985874

E-mail - jomitzi@yahoo.co.uk

Website - machrihanishbirdobservatory.org.uk

List of Selected Species for July 2020



Osprey - See fishing the sea along the coast by A'Chleit Church, evening of **12/07/2021**



Curlew - seen at the Obs on 25/07/2021 and 27/07/2021

Whimbrel - Seen on 17/07/2021, Obs.



Black Headed Gull - Seen 17th, 25th and 27th July. Small group of around 6 seen together.
Obs.



Sandwich Tern (juv) - Seen with 3 adults on rocks near Obs.





Common Sandpiper - Several seen at the Obs. 17th, 25th, 27th July.



Golden Plover - 2 seen feeding with Knot. 25/07/2021



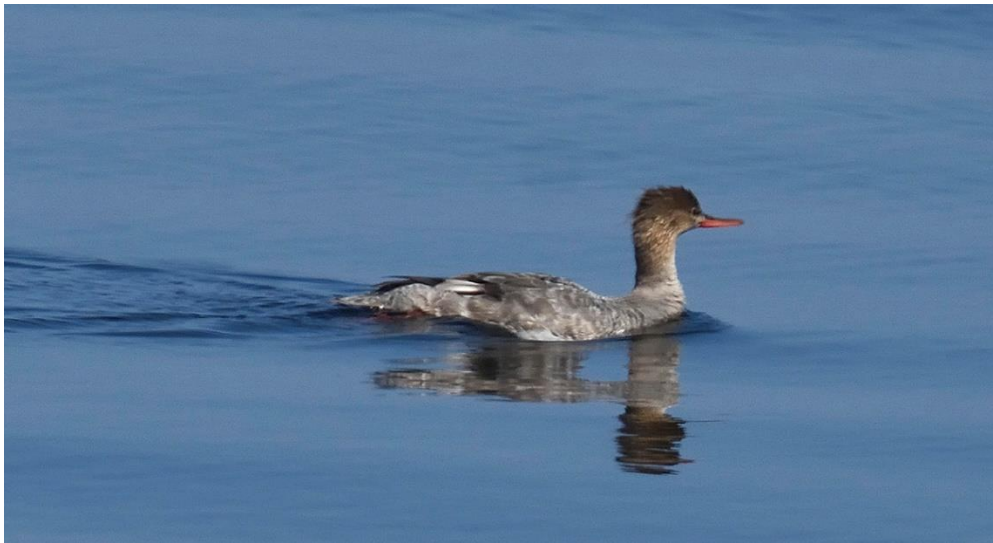
Several flocks feeding in front of the obs. A mix of Knot, Dunlin, Ringed Plover and a Turnstone. Heron and Redshank also present.



Angle Shades Moth seen on Teasle plant at the Obs garden. 17/07/2021



Juvenile Grey Wagtail - 25/07/2021



Female Merganser - Seen alone by the obs. 25/07/2021



Dunlin - Several seen in with flocks.



First of the **Manx Shearwater** - Later, saw around 200 further out heading South in small groups.



Small group of 6 **Lapwing** (juv) feeding on the shore. 25th & 27th July.

Peregrine - 2 shot through past the Obs hunting. 27th July.

Machrihanish Airbase

For 2021 I notice that the numbers of certain birds are less than last year. The number of Sedge Warbler, Whitethroat and Redpoll are down. Linnet seem to have done well but I only heard and saw 1 Grasshopper Warbler this year and it was very late in the year at 03/07/2021. Cuckoo was only heard at a distance and only for a few days this year. Skylark were doing well until the fields were mown for silage.



Juvenile **Wheatear** - 02/07/2021



Stonechat - Increase in number of territories on the airbase. **Whinchat** have increased slightly on last year too.



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Linnet



Ringlet Butterfly



Bog Pimpernel



Bee Orchid - A rarity for Scotland. Recorded with the British and Irish Botanical Society.



Early Marsh Orchid

All photos by Jo Goudie